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Amendment to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph on page 3, lines 7-17 as follows:

The present invention also provides an apparatus for joining the ends of a pair of zipper profiles, the apparatus comprising a means for receiving a pair of zipper profile lengths in engagement with each other at least over an end portion at which the profiles are to be joined, a probe which is movable between a first position in which, in use, it is clear of the engaged profile lengths and a second position in which it has penetrated into the material of the end portions, means for heating the probe, and means for applying external pressure to the zipper profile end portions when the probe is in its ~~second~~ first position.

Please amend the paragraph on page 5, lines 7-16, as follows;

From the position shown in figure 2, the pin is now withdrawn to its first position, as shown in figure 3 of the drawings. It will be seen, as shown schematically in figure 3, that the pin has caused the formation of ~~[[a]]~~ an approximately cylindrical recess 32 in the end portions of the zipper, the recess being formed preferably by vaporisation of the material of the zipper profiles 12, 14 but possibly also by melting and/or softening of the zipper material. In any event, a certain amount of melting and/or softening occurs in the vicinity of the recess.